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PRESIDENT SMITH'S BIRTHDAY.

The Deseret News congratulates President Joseph F. Smith on reaching his sixty-seventh birthday, at which he arrived on Monday, November 13th, 1905. We also congratulate the Church over which he presides, on the blessing it enjoys with such a man in charge of its affairs, and that he is in excellent health, full of manly vigor, and inspired of God to proclaim His word and will concerning His people.

No man who has stood at the head of the Church on earth since the Prophet Joseph "sealed his testimony with his blood" as a martyr, has had more of the love, respect and confidence of the Latter-day Saints than has President Joseph F. Smith, the son of the Patriarch Hyrum, who fell with his noble brother a victim to religious hate and mob vengeance. Although the same spirit which slew the Prophet and the Patriarch still burns fiercely and follows the present leader of the Church, he stands serene and unmoved by the rage and malice of the foe, and simply pities the poor creatures who form out bitterness and cursing and gnash their teeth against him.

In every stake and ward of Zion our President is sustained by the vote and fellowship of the Saints, without a dissenting voice, and lives in their hearts with a devotion that is intense and unmistakable. He is known for his life of honor, integrity and truth and his incessant labors in the great cause of human redemption. He is admired for his fearlessness and sincerity of soul. And he is regarded with the deepest affection, for the kindness of his disposition and the fervor of his spirit, which bears blessing and charity towards all.

May his days be long in the land, his strength of body and mind continue, his voice be heard in defence of the right and exposition of the principles of salvation, and his influence extend throughout the world, until his bitter enemies shall acknowledge his virtues, and render to him the honors that are his due as an honest, upright man and a faithful servant of the living God! The Lord bless him forever!

A WRETCHED FALSEHOOD.

A dispatch from Chicago, dated Nov. 10, appeared in some of the western papers of the same date, containing particulars which were not sent by the regular Associated Press dispatches. It was to the effect that the Central Passenger association, in executive committee, announced a decision upon two applications for half-fare permits similar to those granted to the clergy of the different religious denominations. One was from Alexander Dowrie, in behalf of the preachers and deacons of his church, and the other from the local representatives of the "Mormon" Church, in behalf of the Elders of that denomination. The latter was turned down. The former was laid over for consideration.

There is nothing very remarkable about these applications, but the alleged reason for "turning down" that presented by the Elders in Chicago, it appears, was met by a statement which caused considerable discussion. The objection raised, the dispatch says, was this:

"It was urged by the representatives of several lines that the Mormon Elders worked on commission; that is to say, they received a commission on every convert secured, and that sort of ecclesiastical interest reduced the business to a commercial standpoint pure and simple."

The story about "a commission to the Elders on every convert secured" appeared some time ago in one of the religious journals, and was a sheer invention of some so-called "Christian" ministers to supplement other untruths put into circulation from the same source, in order to hedge up the way of our missionaries in preaching the Gospel and defending the faith. It is as absurd as are most of the stories concocted for a similar purpose.

Instead of our Elders receiving anything by way of remuneration for their services in the mission field, they pay their own expenses to their fields of labor and during the period of their ministry, lasting from two to four or five years, or are assisted by their relatives and such hospitality as may be extended to them by kind friends and members of the Church in the vicinity of their labors. There is not, and never has been, anything of the kind suggested before the Central Passenger association.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has a mission to perform in the preaching of the Gospel to "every nation, kindred, tongue and people." The value of the work performed by its missionaries is not estimated by the number of souls converted, but by the diligence and faithful energy of the servants of the Lord, in promulgating the truth and bearing testimony of the restoration of the Church of Christ in

these latter days, preparatory to the second advent of the Savior. It matters not whether an Elder baptizes a single soul or not. His reward is in heaven and is laid up for him till the day when all men shall be judged and compensated "according to their works." No Elder of this Church has ever received pecuniary compensation, assistance or encouragement in his labors from the Church for missionary work, and the story to the contrary is absolutely destitute of foundation or excuse.

As to the half-fare permit granted by some of the railroads to ministers of the Gospel, we have nothing to say but this: If any preacher of any sect is worthy of that courtesy, it is the Elder of this Church, who for the love of the truth and his fellow creatures, travels without salary of any kind to promulgate principles which he holds beneficial to mankind in this world, and for salvation in the world to come. We do not know whether there is any truth in the dispatch to which we have paid little attention, but we do know that the objection alleged to have been presented before the Passenger Association was one of those miserable falsehoods spread abroad to prejudice the public against the "Mormons."

CHURCH FEDERATION.

On the 15th of this month the so-called inter-church conference convenes in New York, on invitation by the National Federation of churches, for the purpose of discussing ways and means of co-operation in the interest of desired national reform measures. There are in this country about 145 distinct denominations, all recognized as "Protestant." Of these about seventeen will be represented at the conference. Governor Higgins, of New York, will preside at one session, and among the speakers will be two justices of the United States Supreme Court, one United States senator, and the presidents of many well-known colleges. Among the subjects set for discussion are war and peace, citizenship, the family life, a united church, and the national life, labor and capital, and social reform.

The gathering is said to be the most important religious assembly ever held in this country. It represents in the neighborhood of twenty million church members, and it is evident that if they all combine and organize for the purpose of influencing legislatures, they will come very near shaping the policy of the country. The politicians will be sure to watch this movement with keen interest.

SUGAR-COATED TAX.

The American Grocer calls attention to the fact that the United States needs an additional revenue of \$20,000,000 to meet its expenditures, and suggests that another half cent import duty on sugar, maintaining the present differential between raw and refined, would furnish enough revenue more evenly distributed than any other. Another dollar a barrel on beer would also do it, our contemporary says, but "the brewers would squawk," we are told, and therefore the beer must not be touched. For a similar reason tobacco cannot be taxed any further. "The tobacco men would squawk." To avoid these disagreeable sounds, then, the sugar interests, it is thought, might be made to bear the additional burden. A tax, sugar-coated, as it were! But why not try retrenchment, instead of increasing the cost on necessities of life? And if that is impracticable, why not place the tax on such articles as beer and tobacco, which are not necessities of life?

JAPAN'S MORAL VICTORY.

Former secretary of state, John W. Foster, who is well qualified to speak on all subjects pertaining to diplomacy, does not share the generally prevailing opinion that the Japanese diplomats were out-generated by the Russians at Portsmouth. The real diplomatic triumph, he claims, was scored by Japan, because her statesmen had the wisdom and the forbearance not to press their claims beyond the true interests of their country.

Mr. Foster expresses this view in an interesting article on the subject, published in The Philadelphia Sunday School Times of Nov. 11. He shows that the terms of the treaty of peace gave to Japan all and much more than she claimed when war was declared. Hostilities began, he says, because of the conflicting claims to a preponderant influence in Korea, and the continued occupation of Manchuria. Russia conceded to Japan her contention in those two matters, and, in addition, surrendered Port Arthur, Dairen, and the Liaoning peninsula, ceded a great part of the railroad in Manchuria, and one-half of the island of Sakhalin, and granted valuable fishing rights in all the Russian Pacific waters.

Concerning the indemnity question, Mr. Foster holds that the demand for a money compensation is by no means so general as to have the force of international law. He says:

"The demand for an indemnity on account of the expenses of the war seemed, at first glance, and in the light of recent warfare, a well-founded claim, but it is not so fully established in the practice of nations as to become an accepted principle of international law that the vanquished should pay the expenses of the victor. True, the action of Germany in the last war with France sustains the position; but only five years before, when Austria lay prostrate at the feet of Prussia after the great battle of Sedan, no indemnity was demanded. But such was not the spirit of the United States with Mexico and Spain, so far from an indemnity being claimed, our government paid the defeated countries a compensation for the military tributes. Had Japan been inspired by the spirit of Bismarck, which compelled France to drink to the glory of the victor, and made of that nation an inveterate enemy, she would have insisted in the demand for indemnity. But such was not the spirit with which Japan sent her plenipotentiaries to Portsmouth. A continuance of the war undoubtedly would have given her all the Russian possessions on the Pacific but the sentiment of the great world would not have tolerated a presentation of the conflict for merely mercenary objects. She was already secured of an honorable peace, and her powers were unshaken in opposition to the humanitarian sentiment of man-

kind, to press her claims further. I regard the action of Japan as in the highest degree judicious and statesmanlike. Few of the most civilized and Christian nations would have treated their defeated foe with such magnanimity."

Mr. Foster's article is instructive, and he is, without question, right in his contention that Japan won a great moral victory at Portsmouth. But it is to be feared that the Japanese people felt that they were abandoned by their professed friends and therefore made to lose what they had won by heroic and most unselfish sacrifices on the battlefields. And if they form their future policy accordingly, it is not impossible that the world may yet have a war as a result of the Portsmouth treaty. Just as the conflict with Russia came as a result of the Shimonooski treaty.

AGAINST AMERICAN BUSINESS.

The Panama Journal for October 30 contains a brief item to the effect that a European company with large capital is about to erect a plant in Panama for the purpose of manufacturing all kinds of standard articles of American and foreign manufacture, not protected by patent in the new republic. It is pointed out that there is enormous profit in this kind of business, since the managers of it can place their goods on the markets of Central and South America, without paying a royalty and without the transportation expenses. Competition would be impossible under the circumstances.

According to an official report by our consul-general at Berlin, American manufacturers are suffering greatly through the limitations of their goods placed in the markets of the world. This is rather strange. Are, then, American business men not so wide awake as their competitors? One would suppose it almost superfluous to give them the advice to fully protect their inventions by prompt registration, under the laws of each country where they expect to find a market for them.

Pay your taxes or be advertised!

Most post election echoes are nothing but a great big growl.

No son of Mars was ever more glorious than these every day November suns.

Call money in New York appears to be on a "Help me, Cassius, or I sink!" basis.

Mr. Hearst proposes to fight to the last ditch. That must be up somewhere near Harlem river; possibly Salt river.

Pugilism, it seems, has been encouraged at Annapolis, probably for the reason that it was far less brutal than boxing.

One can hardly do a more Christian thing than to subscribe to the fund for the relief of the down-trodden Jews of Odessa.

Justice in Venezuela seems to be much a matter of money. Venezuela is not entirely alone in this world in this matter.

Senator Depew will have to burnish up his stock of after dinner tales to amuse the committee. Here he will find amusing people a very serious business.

It looks as though the Czar's government were going to get even in Poland for having made so many concessions to the Russians at home.

What a big-navy argument Prince Louis of Battenberg's remark about demolishing New York will yet be turned into. That is the real evil of the remark.

More and more interesting sensations in the life insurance investigation are promised. The investigation is really the greatest entertainment now before the country.

Havana authorities trace yellow fever in their town to mosquitoes imported direct from New Orleans. This looks like heaping coals of fire on Senator Cullom's head.

An American professor lecturing in the University of Berlin on American constitutional development, will have more effect in drawing the United States and Germany together than any number of international scholarships would have. It is a splendid idea.

The New York and Bermudez Asphalt company contributed to the campaign funds of Castro and Matos, just like the Erie and some of the big life insurance companies contributed to the campaign funds of both political parties. It is impartiality, if not exemplary impartiality.

Mr. McCall says that if Hamilton does not repay to the New York Life Insurance company before December 15 the sum of \$235,000 which Hamilton received from the company and has not accounted for, he (McCall) will pay the amount himself to the New York Life Insurance company, before December 15, the too, too generous. What a cheap price to pay for the evidence that Hamilton as Albany agent has, and which some are very anxious that the investigation committee shall not get.

HUMILIATED AND DISTRESSED.

Portland Oregonian.

It is officially announced that the Chinese government "is profoundly humiliated and distressed" over the massacre of the American missionaries, all of which will be fully as comforting to the friends of the murdered missionaries as was Alkali Ike's apology to the bereaved widow. "Madam," said he, "the joke is on us; we've hanged your husband, and he wasn't the man we were after." (Unless we are prepared to fire our religion into the heathen Chinese with a cannon, it is a certainty that he will be a long time preventing a sufficient amount to prevent the necessity for these periodical spells of humiliation and distress.)

MODERN EDUCATIONAL IDEAL.

London Spectator.
It is realized nowadays that the educational ideal must be twofold—pure culture and applied culture, science and the humanities, the training of the mind for its own sake and the acquisition

tion of the knowledge most useful in the different walks of life. The old theory that all study was academic and that the only knowledge useful in business was that acquired empirically has, we hope, gone for good. A knowledge of the scientific foundations of any industry, of its economic conditions and of the methods of similar industries elsewhere is generally regarded as at all events a most desirable endowment for any man of business. The best chemical and mechanical talent must go into the breweries and the engineering shops and the factories if these are to compete with foreign enterprise, and to secure this talent there must be educational institutions which make its production their special business.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Madame for November is an exceptionally handsome and interesting number of that publication. It has several excellent short stories, descriptive articles, fashion notes, etc., and the many illustrations lend interest to the well edited pages of the magazine. —Ford Pub. Co., Indianapolis.

Business Woman's Magazine for November opens with an article on Colorado Federation of Women's clubs, by Mary C. C. Bradford. "What Women Are Doing Today" is set forth by Linda Lee. There are many other excellent features in this number. The magazine claims to be "the only business woman's periodical in the world." —Denver, Colo.

Smith's Magazine for December is already out, and comes with many beautiful and interesting features. The art collection contains the portraits of several ladies of the Pacific coast. Among the notable articles are "Fishing Machines," "Our National Disgrace," in which the author treats on the numerous accidents in this country; "Photographing the Heavens," "Among Nihilists," and "The Theatrical Season." —Smith Publishing House, 70-89 Seventh Ave., New York.

In the November number of Men and Women, there are two stories. "The Lady of the Rose Pink Gown," and "How Ellen Found Her Spunk." "The Confessions of an Actress" is said to be an authentic article. Other good, quotable articles are: J. J. Dickinson's "Roosevelt and the Railroads," Clement H. Culp's "Impostor Hughes," and the Baldwin-Kubenshue discussion of "Will We Ever Fly?" The number also contains some splendid verse and many carefully chosen departments. —Cincinnati, O.

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